

Remarks/Arguments

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 27, 29-35, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izawa et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,075,297) in view of Chitayat (U.S. Pat. 5,783,877), Munehiro (U.S. Pat. 4,445,798), and Umehara et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,057,723). Claim 27 is an independent claim, and claims 29-35 and 53 depend either directly or indirectly on claim 27. Claim 27 has been amended. The applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the reason that Izawa in view of Chitayat, Munehiro, and Umehara fails to teach or suggest every limitation of claim 27.

Claim 27 has been amended to include, *inter alia*, “the reinforcing member... being made of a nonmagnetic and electrically conductive material.” This amendment is supported at least by paragraph [0042] of the specification as filed. As noted by the examiner on page 5 of the Office Action, Izawa does not disclose a reinforcing member made of a nonmagnetic and electrically conductive material. Chitayat discloses a nonmagnetic and thermally conductive ceramic reinforcing member. Chitayat provides no teaching or suggestion of a nonmagnetic and electrically conductive reinforcing member. Munehiro is cited for its teaching of magnetic yokes and Umehara is cited for its teaching of a coil assembly being wound in a same direction. Neither Munehiro nor Umehara teach or suggest a nonmagnetic and electrically conductive reinforcing member. Therefore, claim 27 is patentable over a combination of Izawa, Chitayat, Munehiro, and Umehara. Claims 29-35 and 53 are also patentable for at least the reasons disclosed with respect to claim 27.

On page 10 of the Office Action, claim 36 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Izawa, Chitayat, Munehiro, Umehara, and Inagaki et al. (U.S. Pub.

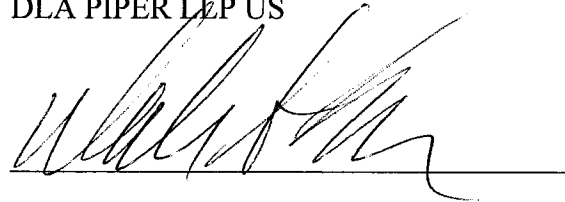
2003/0173836). Claim 36 depends indirectly on claim 27 and is patentable for at least the reasons disclosed with respect to claim 27. Furthermore, Inagaki fails to compensate for the deficiencies of Izawa, Chitayat, Munehiro, and Umehara. Inagaki is cited for its teaching that varying gaps between magnetic components of linear motors affects the magnetic flux incident on the components. Inagaki does not teach or suggest a nonmagnetic and electrically conductive reinforcing member.

The application has been amended to place the application condition for allowance. All amendments are supported by the specification. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dale S. Lazar', is written over a horizontal line.

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